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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

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November 18, 1987

Mr. William J. Tricarico  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

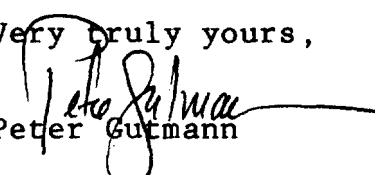
Re: MM Docket No. 87-268  
RM-5811

Dear Mr. Tricarico:

Transmitted herewith are the original and eleven copies of "Comments of Cosmopolitan Broadcasting Corporation" to be filed in the above referenced matter. These comments are directed to the attention of the full Commission.

Should any questions arise concerning this, please communicate with this office.

Very truly yours,

  
Peter Gutmann

Enclosures

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Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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In the Matter of )

Advanced Television Systems )  
and Their Impact on the )  
Existing Broadcast Service )

Review of Technical and )  
Operational Requirements: )  
Part 73-E, Television )  
Broadcast Stations )

Reevaluation of the UHF )  
Television Channel and )  
Distance Separation )  
Requirements of Part 73 of )  
the Commission's Rules )

MM Docket No. 87-268 /  
RM-5811

TO: The Commission

COMMENTS OF COSMOPOLITAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Cosmopolitan Broadcasting Corporation ("Cosmopolitan"),  
by its attorney, pursuant to §1.415 of the Commission's Rules,  
respectfully submits herewith its comments in response to the  
Commission's Notice of Inquiry, FCC 87-246, released August  
20, 1987 ("Notice") in the captioned matter.

For the reasons set forth below, Cosmopolitan believes  
that the development, testing, standardization and implementation  
of a viable, terrestrial HDTV system could be significantly  
accelerated by immediately removing the mandatory technical  
constraints upon the low power television ("LPTV") service in  
order to permit such facilities to be used in a non-standard

manner, subject only to the requirement that existing full-service stations be protected from interference to the extent currently provided by Commission Rules.

Cosmopolitan agrees with the fundamental thrust of the Commission's Notice that there exists an extraordinary range of technical factors to be addressed before HDTV can become a reality. Cosmopolitan is also concerned with reports that foreign television systems will be marketed in the United States (by satellite and tape, if not terrestrially) within the next several years. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the Commission to do everything within reason in order to accelerate the development and testing of the various prototype HDTV systems which are possible candidates for adoption by the American television industry. Cosmopolitan fears that unless the Commission paves the way for field testing of developmental systems, then America will be unable to effectively respond to the foreign challenge with a homebred system of its own.

At paragraphs 89 through 96 of its Notice, the Commission raises the possibility of relaxing the mandatory NTSC standard for television. The Commission correctly notes that relaxation could facilitate the introduction of some advanced TV systems. As the Commission recognizes, however, this benefit would be

offset by the very strong economic incentive for broadcasters to maintain compatibility with the enormous universe of NTSC receivers in American homes. Cosmopolitan fears that this very same factor would mitigate against the wisdom of using full-power channels for experimental purposes, as a broadcaster would necessarily abandon regular viewership in order to do so.

Cosmopolitan suggests that a solution to this problem would be to relax the NTSC standards for low-power television stations. Many LPTV permittees and licensees have not yet found a commercially-feasible niche in their marketplace, and would be far more willing than established fullpower stations to permit the use of their facilities for experimental purposes. As LPTV stations are found in all sizes of markets, and cover the full spectrum occupied by current terrestrial broadcasters, their facilities would appear to be ideal laboratories for practical field-testing of HDTV systems. Moreover, with the relaxation of the NTSC standard, LPTV stations might be used for even broader experimental purposes, in order to test-market the feasibility of other potential uses for these facilities.

By relaxing the NTSC standards for LPTV stations, the Commission would permit their use for a variety of developmental purposes. Such uses would be expected to have little adverse

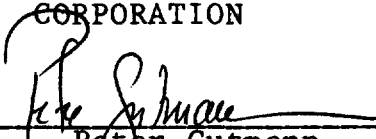
effect upon viewer dislocation, insofar as licensees and permittees would be free to elect, based upon their perception of marketplace forces, whether to permit unconventional uses for their stations and, if so, for what periods and under what conditions. Finally, by requiring the current levels of protection to existing full-power stations, any unintended dislocation of broadcast service on other facilities could be controlled to within acceptable bounds.

In view of the foregoing, Cosmopolitan Broadcasting Corporation respectfully requests that the Commission relax the mandatory NTSC standard for low-power television stations.

Respectfully submitted

COSMOPOLITAN BROADCASTING  
CORPORATION

By

  
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Its Attorney

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